

## Ward 6 Staff



**Steve Kozachik**



**Ann Charles**



**Diana Amado**



**Molly Thrasher**



**Amy Stabler**



**Evelyn Romero**



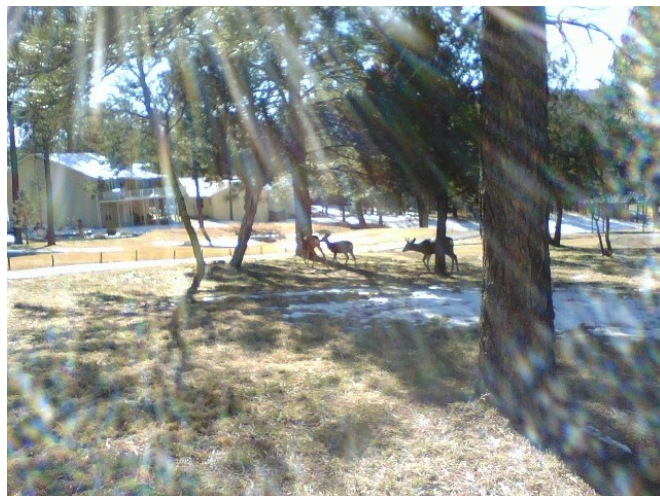
# Ward 6 - Newsletter

*Tucson First*

December 30, 2013

## New Year – New Energy

We at the Ward 6 office hope you all had an opportunity to share some down time with your loved ones, and come back to the new year with a fresh perspective on the things that matter, and a commitment to getting about the task of protecting and preserving the same. This is a shot I took up in Ruidoso, New Mexico that lays itself open to your own interpretation. May it be one of a calming oneness.



## Office of Integrated Planning

We sent out an invitation to participate in a meeting we're hosting with City Staff to discuss new outreach protocols that will be incorporated with the Office of Integrated Planning that the City Manager is forming. The date/time/location for the meeting is Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ward 6 office – 6pm.

To clarify the intent of the meeting – it is not a policy setting meeting. It is intended to talk about how the new office is going to handle reaching out to stake holders in new projects so that the variety of voices impacted will have a chance to share their thoughts. The goal is to put in place steps by which fully transparent policies will be implemented so early input is sought and attained, and we no longer end up on decision-day with people coming forward saying that they didn't get a chance to share their concerns.

I've advocated for something like this new office and I support its establishment. I also believe in getting as much early input into schematic and design development as is realistically attainable. That helps later design considerations, saves everybody time and money in the long run and generally results in a better project at the end of the day. Come and participate if you'd like to share your thoughts. It's my desire to see the quiet, behind the scenes attempts to establish process with staff to be a thing of the past.





### Important Phone Numbers

#### Tucson Police Department

911 or 791-4444  
nonemergency

#### Mayor & Council Comment Line

791-4700

#### Neighborhood Resources

791-4605

#### Park Wise

791-5071

#### Water Issues

791-3242

#### Pima County Animal Control

243-5900

#### Street Maintenance 791-3154

#### Planning and Development Services 791-5550

#### Southwest Gas

889-1888

#### Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

#### West Nile Virus

#### Hotline

243-7999

#### Environment

#### Service

791-3171

#### Graffiti Removal

792-2489

#### AZ Game & Fish

628-5376

## Continued: A Message From Steve

### Tucson / Southern Arizona and Movie Making

I'm ending this year by touching on what I expect to be some topics that we'll see some success with early in the next calendar year. The first is one I've shared plenty on – the effort to put together a set of local film incentives. First, this snippet from a, August 12, 2013, journal review of how New Mexico benefited from *Breaking Bad*:

***Breaking Bad*, the AMC drama that began airing the last half of its final season on Sunday, is about the illegal drug trade. That sober topic is a ways from the hot-air balloons and ethnic culture that previously defined Albuquerque to the outside world. But the CVB found a way to leverage the show's popularity—in part, because the tourists just kept coming.**

**"It's been great for the city and given us new avenues to promote the city along with our film tourism program," CVB spokeswoman Megan Mayo Ryan told the *Los Angeles Times*.**

**Why here? Series creator Vince Gilligan initially planned to film the show in California but set the show in New Mexico instead, drawn by the state's financial incentives.**

So, Shelli Hall from our own CVB is getting her bags packed and will soon be headed back to D.C. for a major trade show at which all of the major film/tv/advertising shooters will be present. We're getting her a portfolio of material to share in the hopes of landing some production opportunities.

Last week, Paul Durrant, a shooter for KOLD-TV 13 shared with me some of the many images he has put together that depict scenes from around Tucson and Southern Arizona. They'll be a part of Shelli's portfolio as she heads back east to show that, while the Tucson region may be a natural for shooting westerns, we've got plenty of other 'set-ready' looks to sell. The first three below are from around Bisbee, and the bottom three are from right here in Tucson. Paul's in a particularly good position to see the variety of vistas and interesting facades we have to offer – the news takes you into all of the nooks and crannies of the city and region, and he has captured much of it in stills that will now be a part of the 'Television in Tucson' pitch that we're making. As you look at these pictures, think of the variety of movies/television/ads for which they'd be a great fit.

State wide incentives would make this a whole lot easier, but we have a great collaborative team working on showing the Legislature that we can make some lemonade out of the lemon they handed us when denying the bill in the last session. We'll try it again this time – but won't wait to toss the lure out on the water ourselves







## Important Phone Numbers

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff  
Flake (R)  
520-575-8633

Congressman  
Ron Barber (D)  
(2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
520-881-3588

Congressman  
Raul Grijalva (D)  
(3<sup>rd</sup> District)  
520-622-6788

Governor Janice  
Brewer (R)  
Governor of Arizona  
602-542-4331

Toll free:  
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free  
Telephone:  
1-800-352-8404  
Internet:  
[www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)

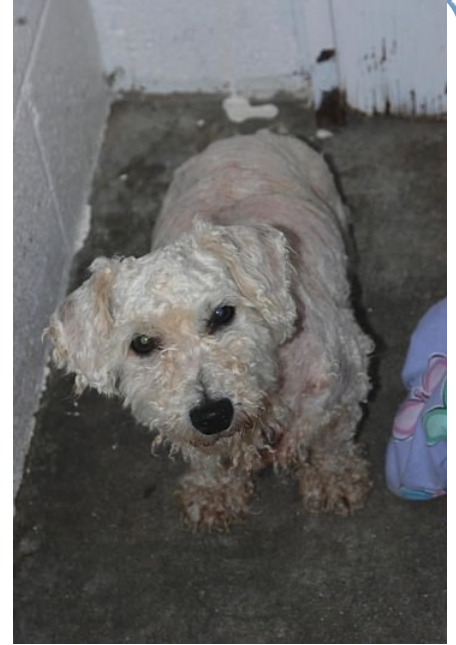
Mayor Jonathan  
Rothschild  
791-4201

City Infoguide  
[http://  
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/  
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)



Each week new people join in this effort. Thanks go out to Paul Durrant this time for the part he's playing in helping to sell us as a region.





### **Puppy Mills**

The images above are of a couple of little guys who are being rescued from a Missouri puppy mill. Note not only the conditions of the living quarters, but the lack of care they've been given. To the mill operators, they're a commodity to be bought, bred, sold and disposed of. It is these sorts of mills that I'm working to cut off as a source for the dogs you see for sale in Tucson pet stores.

The City of Phoenix adopted an Ordinance that I felt went too far. That is, they failed to consider service animals and law enforcement dogs. They also drafted such overly broad language that there is now question as to how the Ordinance will impact the ability of legitimate breeders, and even the individuals who want to sell their 'oops' litters to a local pet store. That's the fine line I'm trying to find in the language of a local Tucson Ordinance. To that end I'm enlisting the input of both retailers and rescue advocates. In addition our City legal folks and County people are offering input. I think it's close.

One thing I've learned is that the folks who help to train service dogs report that the people who come to them for that training have found their partner-dogs at both breeders and from rescue/shelter's. Because it's critical for the owner to have a close relationship with the service animal, it's typically recommended that people meet the breeder/provider, the dog's parents and spend time with the pup in order to make a good evaluation of the temperament of all involved. It's also important that they understand the health history of both the offspring, and the parents. For those reasons, it's rare that pet stores are the source of dogs being trained as service animals. And, especially when the pet store gets their 'stock' from a mill, the dogs are generally poorly socialized – not a trait that a good service animal can afford. All of that is a good indication that controlling the source of pet store dogs, prohibiting the importation of puppy mill dogs, is not going to impact peoples' ability to find a good mate for training as a service companion.

### **McKale Scoreboard**

And while I was up romping around with the deer in Ruidoso, a crew of McKale and Panasonic staff were starting to assemble the new scoreboard/video board that will adorn the arena when the men's basketball team returns to action on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. As you can see it's a chunk.





is being spec'd to meet the market its serving – not the NCAA #1 ranked basketball team in the country and our fans.

... so those three projects are high on my list of 'to-do' for early in the year. I'm expecting to see successes – and I'm thankful for the help of so many who are also working on each of them.

### **January 7<sup>th</sup> @ The Loft – Gun Control and Mental Health Forum**

Last reminder before the panel discussion and screening we're holding at The Loft next Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup>. As with the other events I've worked on with Peg Johnson and her crew over there, the Loft staff is doing a great job helping pull this event together.

The film is a documentary on the Virginia Tech shooting in which 32 students were murdered by a lone gunman. Colin Goddard, a survivor and a victim, will be on our panel to talk about the incident. The panel will also discuss background check legislation and the need for improved mental health assessments and treatment modalities.

The panel will include Colin, the mayor, Chief of Police, Pima County Sherriff, CEO of Bens Bell's and head of NAMI – and me. I've asked Jim Nintzel from AZPM's Arizona Illustrated Politics and the Tucson Weekly to moderate the event.

We'll also have an update from the January 8<sup>th</sup> Memorial Committee on where the community memorial will be placed, and the process they'll now go through to select an artist and commission the piece.

Doors will open at 6pm and the event will start at 6:30pm sharp.

### **Two Pieces of Unfinished Business from 2013**

#### **Roads –**

It was nice to see a bi-partisan letter headed to the Governor's desk that is calling for full refunding of the gas tax account that was intended to help local governments pay to keep the roads in good repair. There has been a roughly \$750M reduction in spending from HURF (Highway User Revenue Fund) since 2002. As was pointed out in the letter to Brewer, those lost dollars have forced cutbacks by local communities on roadway maintenance. To be clear, even the full funding would not have been sufficient to keep pace with the need, but an extra about \$10M annually wouldn't have hurt. That's about what we've been



losing due to the State shifting money from the HURF fund to pay for Department of Public Safety workers. If the fund is fully restored, an added \$120M in both 2015 and 2016 may be headed out to the localities.

While that's brewing, we're also looking for the first report from our local Prop 409 bond committee on which residential streets will get the first influx of the bond money you voted to approved. There will be \$3M annually for the next 5 years allocated to residential work. The committee is doing some triage on the many needy areas of the City and will share their hit-list right after the first of the year. Then it'll be a matter of waiting for the weather to get to the right temps before the work will actually begin.

As the year unfolds, you'll also see debates about increases in the gas tax, repurposing existing RTA tax money to cover road maintenance (a proposal I offered in 2012 – it appears now to have some interest,) and also the likely affirmation that Federal assistance is not going to be coming, at least in any significant amounts. From what I hear, the Federal Highway Revenue Fund is having troubles of its own from a finance standpoint.

The citizens task force has been working hard with staff to identify strategies to address the residential areas. I've shared this before, but it bears repeating – you will not see the worst streets fixed first. That would chew up all of the \$3M and not address nearly the linear miles we may be able to address if we do maintenance treatments to some of the less bad areas first.

#### **...and Pensions –**

You may recall that a couple of months ago I invited three pension and H.R. experts to visit with City Staff to talk about the condition of our pension system. My hope was to hear from the outside some insights on what we've done, and what they may see as directions we should head in making our pension system less of a burden on the General Fund – and more solvent over the long haul. Recently that panel shared some thoughts that came from both that meeting, and from their own internal study of our Plan.

Quick review – we have a public safety Plan (PSPRS) that is fully administered by the State, and we have a non-public safety Plan (TSRS) that we manage at the local level. Funding for the public safety plan is below the desirable levels. TSRS is generally funded appropriately, but faces challenges going forward based on workforce demographics. The panel found our administrative costs to be 'very moderate.'

I mentioned the demographics of the workforce. That relates in that the assumptions used to forecast the future status of the Plans may need to be reviewed and tested. The trends and dynamics of population age, employment, health and wellness are changing dramatically. Boomers are retiring, living longer, and at the same time we're hiring fewer workers who'll be in the pipeline to pay the pension costs for retirees.

There are ways we can address some of those trends; One is the level of contributions current and future participants are responsible for. This can be changed in two ways: adjust the multiplier (which has already been done, but could be done again) or change definition of pay (overtime cap, no vacation, no sick, etc.) These will need to be parts of our pension discussion when we get to it again this spring.

Other areas we may be asked to look at are the failed ballot idea from last year that would have closed the Plan to new entrants. That needs to be rejected because it would not address the need for continuous funding needed in order to pay current and future retirees' benefits. If not from workers' contributions, the General Fund is the fall back. That's why I was opposed to the proposition that was being floated around.

Other ideas to address funding levels are to increase the 5% contribution level now being paid by many of our workers, and a possible hybrid benefit idea (part defined benefit, part defined contribution.) The 5% level is something we can adopt at the council level. In as much as I voted against dropping the contribution level down that low, it's fair to assume that I'd likely support increasing it in order to help the fund solvency. As for the hybrid idea, before agreeing to it, I'd need to see the details of what ever might be proposed. Putting the General Fund at greater risk isn't something I'd support.

We'll need to keep all options alive, including the practice of buying back years of service for credits, changing the retirement age, the re-employment of retirees and others. As I noted in the heading for this section, its unfinished business that we'll tackle as the budget discussion unfolds early next year.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Ward 6 Council Member  
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

## **Events Calendar**

*What's happening this week in the Downtown, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .*

**Rialto Theatre**, 318 E. Congress St.

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 8:00PM **Lucha Libre Año Nuevo w/Sergio Mendoza Y La Orkesta, feat., Salvador Duran**

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

**Loft Cinema** 3233 E. Speedway

Tuesday, December 31 at 11:00pm Pre-show fun at 11:00pm / Movie at midnight

**The Monty Python New Year's Eve Party!**

[www.loftcinema.com/](http://www.loftcinema.com/)

### **Ongoing . . . .**

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W. Congress St.

[www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org](http://www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org)

**Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N. Main Ave.

[www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org)



**Jewish History Museum**, 564 S. Stone Ave.

The Jewish History Museum presents "Cowboys, Merchants, Miners, & Booze," an exhibit that celebrates the lives of Tucson's Jewish pioneers.

[www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

**Children's Museum Tucson**, 200 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

[www.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://www.childrensmuseumtucson.org)

**Arizona State Museum**, 1013 E. University Blvd

November 9, 2013, through July 2015 **Curtis Reframed: The Arizona Portfolios**

[www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)

**UA Mineral Museum**, 1601 E University Blvd

Ongoing "100 Years of Arizona's Best: The Minerals that Made the State"

**Southern Arizona Transportation Museum**, 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight trains passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday, year round.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>

**Sacred Machine Museum & Curiosity Shop**, 245 E Congress St

<http://sacredmachine.com/>

**Meet Me at Maynards**

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

[www.MeetMeatMaynards.com](http://www.MeetMeatMaynards.com)

**For other events in the Downtown/4<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:**

[www.MainGateSquare.com](http://www.MainGateSquare.com)

[www.FourthAvenue.org](http://www.FourthAvenue.org)

[www.DowntownTucson.org](http://www.DowntownTucson.org)

**Free Tucson Water Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Class from Watershed Management Group**

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Ward 3 City Council Office, 1510 E Grant Rd

Have you installed rainwater-harvesting systems at your home? Do you plan to? Tucson Water's rebate program can help make it affordable. The rebate will cover the full cost of a system, up to \$300, or 50% of the cost, up to \$2,000, for qualifying rainwater-harvesting projects installed after September 27, 2011. One requirement of the rebate program is to attend a three-hour educational session such as this one. Watershed Management Group offers this session, free of charge, as a service to the community.

Pre-registration is required. To register, click here <http://watershedmg.org/civCRM/event/register?reset=1&id=312>

For more information about the rebate classes, visit our website <http://watershedmg.org/rebate>